

417 Spotless Starling



Spotless Starling. Spring. Adult. Male (22-III).

SPOTLESS STARLING (*Sturnus unicolor*)

IDENTIFICATION

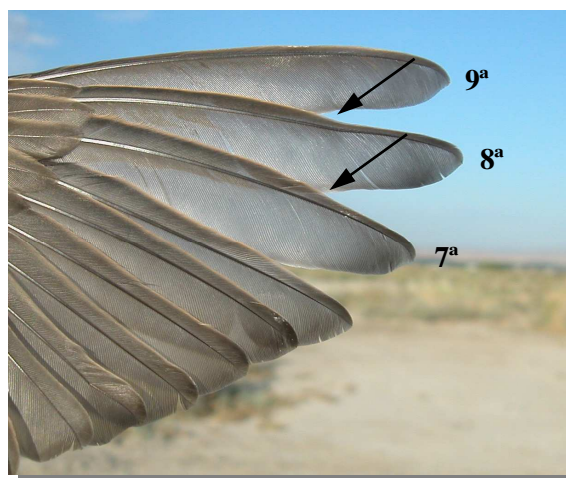
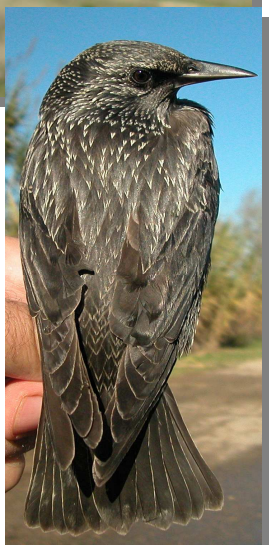
20-22 cm. Black plumage, glossy in **breeding** plumage; duller and with white spots in **winter**; yellow bill in **breeders**, dark in **winter**; short tail. **Wing formula**: 8th primary is the longest (sometimes 8th and 9th similar); 8th primary with well developed emargination, 7th primary with poorly developed emargination. **Juveniles** are grey brown.



Spotless Starling. Spring. Adult. Pattern of wing, breast and upperparts.



Spotless Starling. Winter. Wing formula and pattern of breast and upperparts.



Spotless Starling. Juvenile. Wing formula and pattern of breast and upperparts.

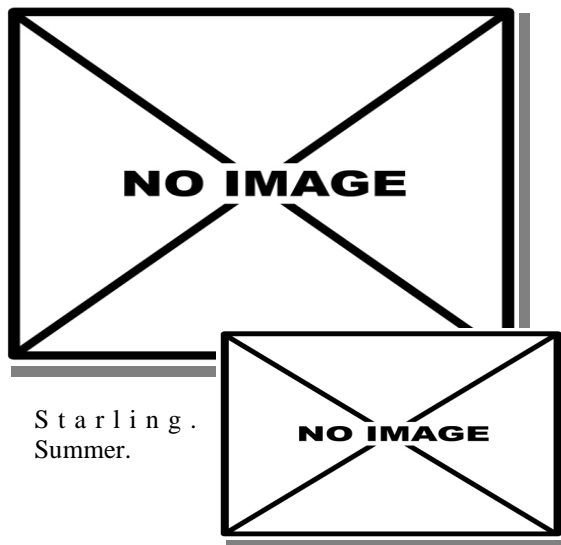
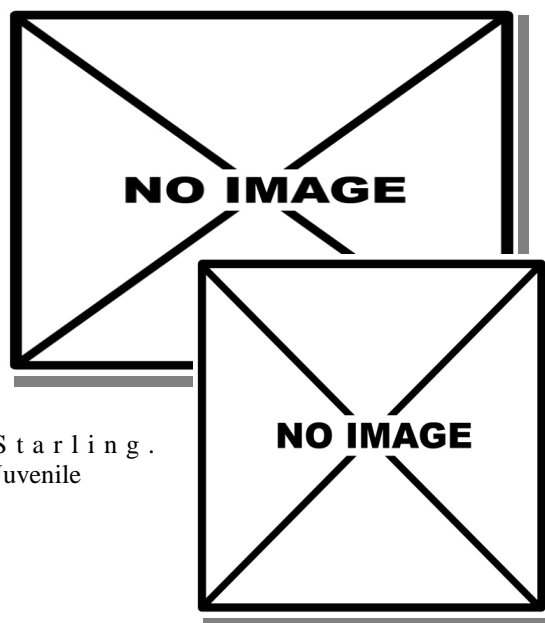
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SIMILAR SPECIES

Recalls that of a male **Blackbird** which has longer tail and lacks glossy plumage or white spots. **Starling** is very similar but has green and purple gloss in **breeding** plumage and wing feathers have buff edges. **Juvenile** of **Starling** is indistinguishable by plumage but with different wing formula being the 9th primary the longest.



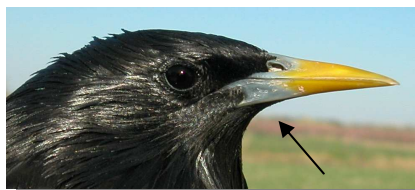
Blackbird. Male.

Starling.
Winter.Starling.
Summer.Starling.
Juvenile

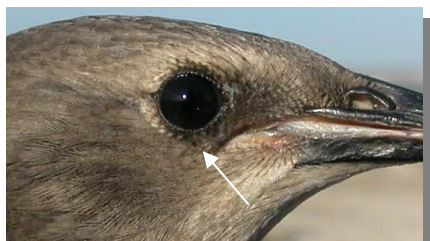
SEXING

Male with base of lower mandible grey-blue (**CAUTION:** only breeders); iris uniformly dark brown; longest throat feather between 28-41 mm in **adult male** and 24-28 in **postjuvenile male**. **Female** with base of lower mandible white-pinkish (**CAUTION:** only breeders); iris dark or brown with a narrow pale inner or outermost circle; longest throat feather between 21-27 mm in **adult female** and 17-23 in **postjuvenile female**. Most of the **juveniles** can be sexed by iris colour (**CAUTION:** **males** and **females** can have iris dark brown, but only **females** have the iris with a pale circle).

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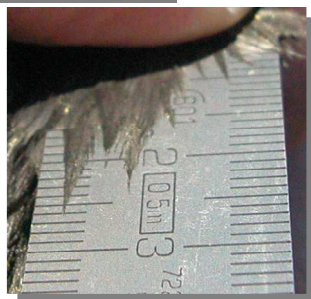
Spotless Starling. Spring. Sexing. Colour of iris and pattern of bill: top male; bottom female.



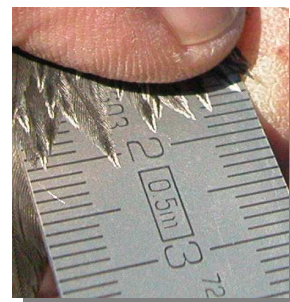
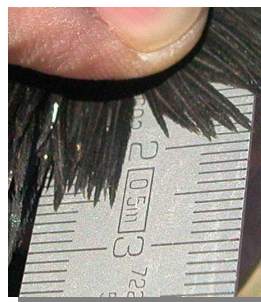
Spotless Starling. Juvenile. Sexing. Colour of iris: top male; bottom female.



Spotless Starling. Winter. Sexing. Colour of iris: top male; bottom female.



Spotless Starling. Winter. Adult. Sexing. Length of the longest throat feather: left male; right female.



Spotless Starling. Winter. 1st year. Sexing. Length of the longest throat feather: left male; right female.

AGEING

3 types of age can be recognized:

Juvenile with grey brown plumage, whitish throat and underparts with pale streaks; grey bill.

1st year autumn/2nd year winter with rounded tail feathers; **male** with dark and glossy plumage; body feathers with white spots; longest throat feather between 24-28 mm.

Female with duller plumage and more spotted than **male**; longest throat feather between 17-23 mm. In **spring**, ageing is possible meanwhile wear doesn't destroy the tips of tail feathers and the spotted.

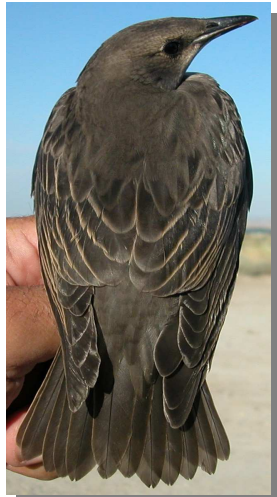
Adults with rounded tail feathers; **male** with glossy black plumage without white spots; longest throat feather between 28-41 mm.

Female with black plumage with white spots only on belly and undertail coverts; longest throat feather between 21-27 mm. In **spring**, ageing is possible meanwhile wear doesn't destroy the tips of tail feathers; usually more glossy than **2nd year** birds but this character is not easy to see if both birds aren't together.

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Spotless Starling. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult; right juvenile.



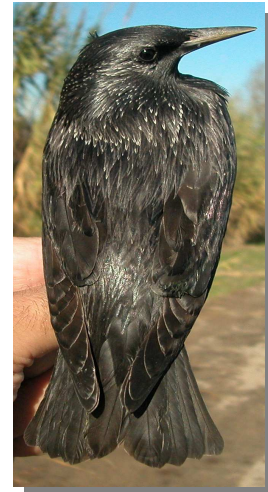
Spotless Starling. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right juvenile.



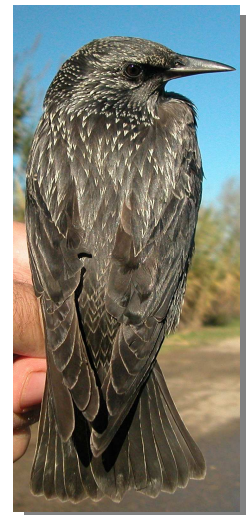
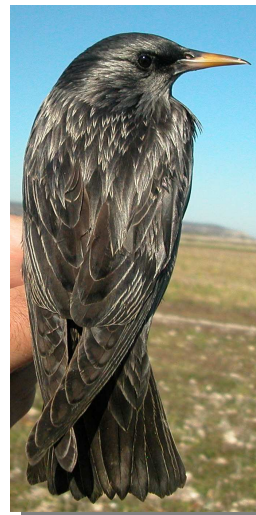
Spotless Starling. Winter. Male. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult; right 1st year.



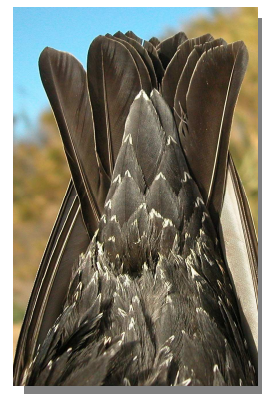
Spotless Starling. Winter. Female. Ageing. Pattern of breast: left adult; right 1st year.



Spotless Starling. Winter. Male. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right 1st year.



Spotless Starling. Winter. Female. Ageing. Pattern of upperparts: left adult; right 1st year.



Spotless Starling. Winter. Male. Ageing. Pattern of the undertail coverts: left adult; right 1st year.

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Spotless Starling. Winter. Female. Ageing. Pattern of the undertail coverts: left adult; right 1st year.



Spotless Starling. Winter. Female. Ageing. Pattern of the central tail feather: left adult; right 1st year.



Spotless Starling. Winter. Male. Ageing. Pattern of the central tail feather: left adult; right 1st year.



Spotless Starling. Winter. Male. Ageing. Pattern of the outermost tail feather: left adult; right 1st year.



Spotless Starling. Winter. Female. Ageing. Pattern of the outermost tail feather: left adult; right 1st year.

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MOULT

Complete **postbreeding** and **postjuvenile** moults, finished in October.

PHENOLOGY

I	II	III	IV	V	VI	VII	VIII	IX	X	XI	XII

STATUS IN ARAGON

Resident. Widely distributed throughout the Region, absent only from the highest areas of the Pyrenees.



Spotless Starling. Spring. 2nd year. Female (23-IV).



Spotless Starling. Spring. Adult. Female (23-IV).



Spotless Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Male/female (30-V)



Spotless Starling. Spring. 2nd year. Male (23-IV).



Spotless Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Female (30-V)

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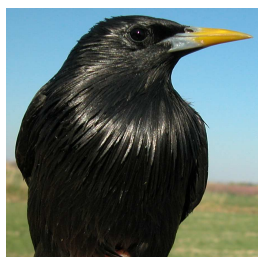
Spotless Starling. Spring. Adult. Head pattern and colour of iris and bill: top male (22-III); bottom female (23-IV)



Spotless Starling. Spring. 2nd year. Head pattern and colour of iris and bill: top male (23-IV); bottom female (23-IV)



Spotless Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Head pattern and colour of iris and bill: top male/female (30-V); bottom female (30-V).



Spotless Starling. Spring. Adult. Breast pattern: left male (22-III); right female (23-IV).



Spotless Starling. Spring. 2nd year. Breast pattern: left male (23-IV); right female (23-IV).



Spotless Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Breast pattern: left male/female (30-V); right female (30-V)

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Spotless Starling. Spring. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (22-III); right female (23-IV).



Spotless Starling. Spring. Adult. Male: tail pattern (12-V).



Spotless Starling. Spring. Adult. Female: tail pattern (23-IV).



Spotless Starling. Spring. 2nd year. Upperpart pattern: left male (23-IV); right female (23-IV).



Spotless Starling. Spring. 2nd year. Male: tail pattern (23-IV).



Spotless Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Upperpart pattern: left male/female (30-V); right female (30-V).

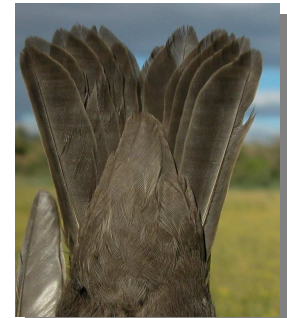


Spotless Starling. Spring. 2nd year. Female: tail pattern (23-IV).

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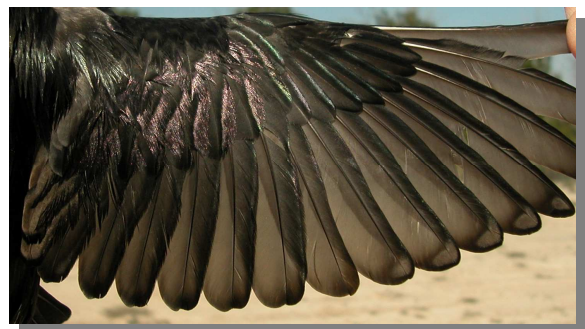
Spotless Starling.
Spring.
Juvenile.
Male/female:
tail pattern
(30-V).



Spotless Starling. Spring. Juvenile: pattern of undertail coverts: left male/female (30-V); right female (30-V).



Spotless Starling.
Spring.
Juvenile.
Female: tail
pattern (30-V).



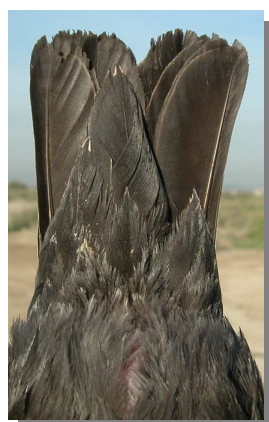
Spotless Starling. Spring. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (22-III).



Spotless Starling. Spring. Adult: pattern of undertail coverts: left male (22-III); right female (23-IV).



Spotless Starling. Spring. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (23-IV).



Spotless Starling.
Spring. 2nd year: pattern of undertail coverts: left male (23-IV); right female (23-IV).



Spotless Starling. Spring. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (23-IV).

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Spotless Starling. Spring. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (23-IV).



Spotless Starling. Winter. Adult. Male (07-I)



Spotless Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Male/female: pattern of wing (30-V).



Spotless Starling. Winter. Adult. Female (07-I)



Spotless Starling. Spring. Juvenile. Female: pattern of wing (30-V).



Spotless Starling. Winter. 2nd year. Male (07-I)

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Spotless Starling. Winter. 2nd year. Female (07-I)



Spotless Starling. Winter. Adult. Head pattern: top male (07-I); bottom female (07-I).



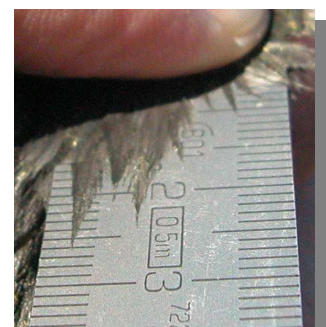
Spotless Starling. Winter. 2nd year. Head pattern: top male (07-I); bottom female (07-I).



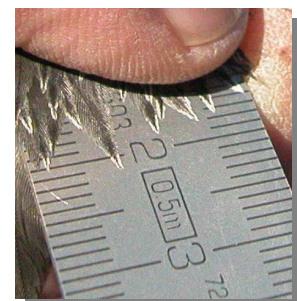
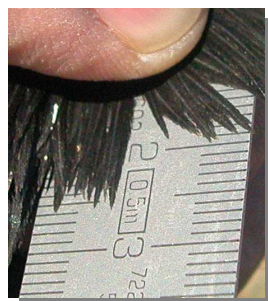
Spotless Starling. Winter. Adult. Breast pattern: top male (07-I); bottom female (07-I).



Spotless Starling. Winter. 2nd year. Breast pattern: top male (07-I); bottom female (07-I).

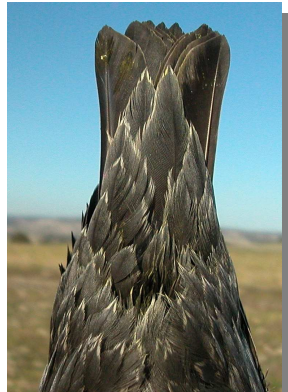


Spotless Starling. Adult. Length of the longest throat feather: left male (15-V); right female (05-III).

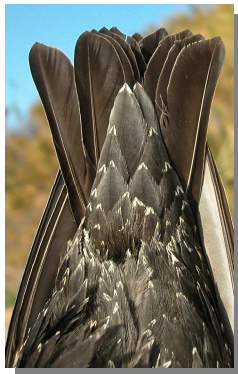


Spotless Starling. 2nd year. Length of the longest throat feather: left male (05-III); right female (05-III).

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Spotless Starling. Winter. Adult. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (07-I); right female (07-I).



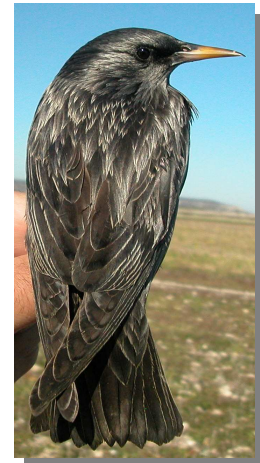
Spotless Starling. Winter. 2nd year. Pattern of undertail coverts: left male (07-I); right female (07-I).



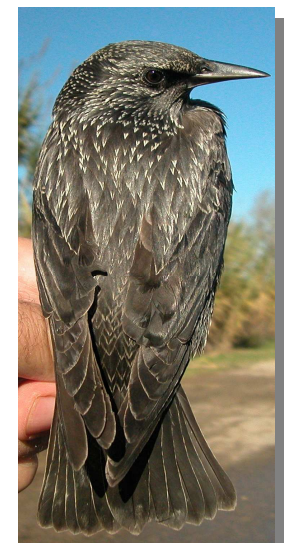
Spotless Starling. Winter. Adult. Pattern of the outermost tail feathers: top male (07-I); bottom female (07-I).



Spotless Starling. Winter. 2nd year. Pattern of the outermost tail feathers: top male (07-I); bottom female (07-I).



Spotless Starling. Winter. Adult. Upperpart pattern: left male (07-I); right female (07-I).



Spotless Starling. Winter. 2nd year. Upperpart pattern: left male (07-I); right female (07-I).

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Spotless Starling. Winter. Adult. Male: pattern of wing (07-I).



Spotless Starling. Winter. Adult. Female: pattern of wing (07-I).



Spotless Starling. Winter. 2nd year. Male: pattern of wing (07-I).



Spotless Starling. Winter. 2nd year. Female: pattern of wing (07-I).